

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 EUR-12 /053 W
----- 115894

O R 290200Z JUN 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4617

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 4616

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, SW, LA

SUBJ: DETENTION AND RELEASE OF SWEDISH CITIZEN

REF: A. STATE 153498

B. VIENTIANE 4613 (USINFO, NOTAL)

1. SVEN BERGGRAN RPT BERGGRAN, AGE 40, SWEDISH CITIZEN, WAS PICKED UP BY PROTESTORS AND/OR EMPLOYEES OF UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, INC. (UAE) AT HIS HOME IN VIENTIANE AT 0930 HOURS LOCAL TIME (0230 GMT) SATURDAY, JUNE 28, AND RELEASED TEN OR ELEVEN HOURS LATER AFTER HE HAD SIGNED DOCUMENT RELATING TO SEVERANCE PAY FOR LAO EMPLOYEES OF UAE. HE WAS NOT RPT NOT HARMED AND IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE GONE BACK TO HIS HOUSE SATURDAY NIGHT.

2. BERGGRAN HAS WORKED FOR UAE SINCE JANUARY 1974 ON A GENERATOR CONTRACT THE TOKYO-BASED FIRM HELD WITH THE NOW-TERMINATED USAID MISSION TO LAOS. THIS IS A SEPARATE CONTRACT FROM UAE'S BUILDING-MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, BERGGRAN SIGNED SEVERANCE-PAY DOCUMENT ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH ROBERT KING, UAE ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE EMBASSY CONTRACT. BERGGRAN IS NOT RPT NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY GSO AS REPORTED BY AP (REF A).

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3. BERGGRAN HAS LIVED IN VIENTIANE SINCE 1965.

HIS WIFE IS LAO AND THEY HAVE AT LEAST
TWO CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE HOSPI-
TALIZED IN BERGGRAN'S HOME TOWN (UNKNOWN) IN SWEDEN
FOR TREATMENT OF BRAIN TUMOR.

4. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RECONTACT BERGGRAN AND LEARN
HIS FUTURE PLANS. ACCORDING TO KING, BERGGRAN WILL
BE INVOLVED FOR AT LEAST NEXT WEEK OR TWO IN PREPARING
SEVERANCE PAYMENTS TO UAE EMPLOYEES.

5. BERGGRAN'S DETENTION BECAME KNOWN TO KING OF UAE
AND THUS TO EMBASSY ONLY SEVERAL HOURS AFTER IT BEGAN.
INITIAL REPORT CONTAINED REF B, PARA 11.
CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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